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B R O A D W O O D W I D G E R

ANNUAL REPORT



of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

For the Year Ended 31st December 1956.

BROADWOODWIDGER RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1956, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry.

The birth rate is higher than that for England and Wales as a whole and the total number of births was more than double the number of deaths, hence the death rate was considerably lower than that for England and Wales - this is highly satisfactory. The preponderance of male births has been broken and on this occasion three more girls were born than boys.

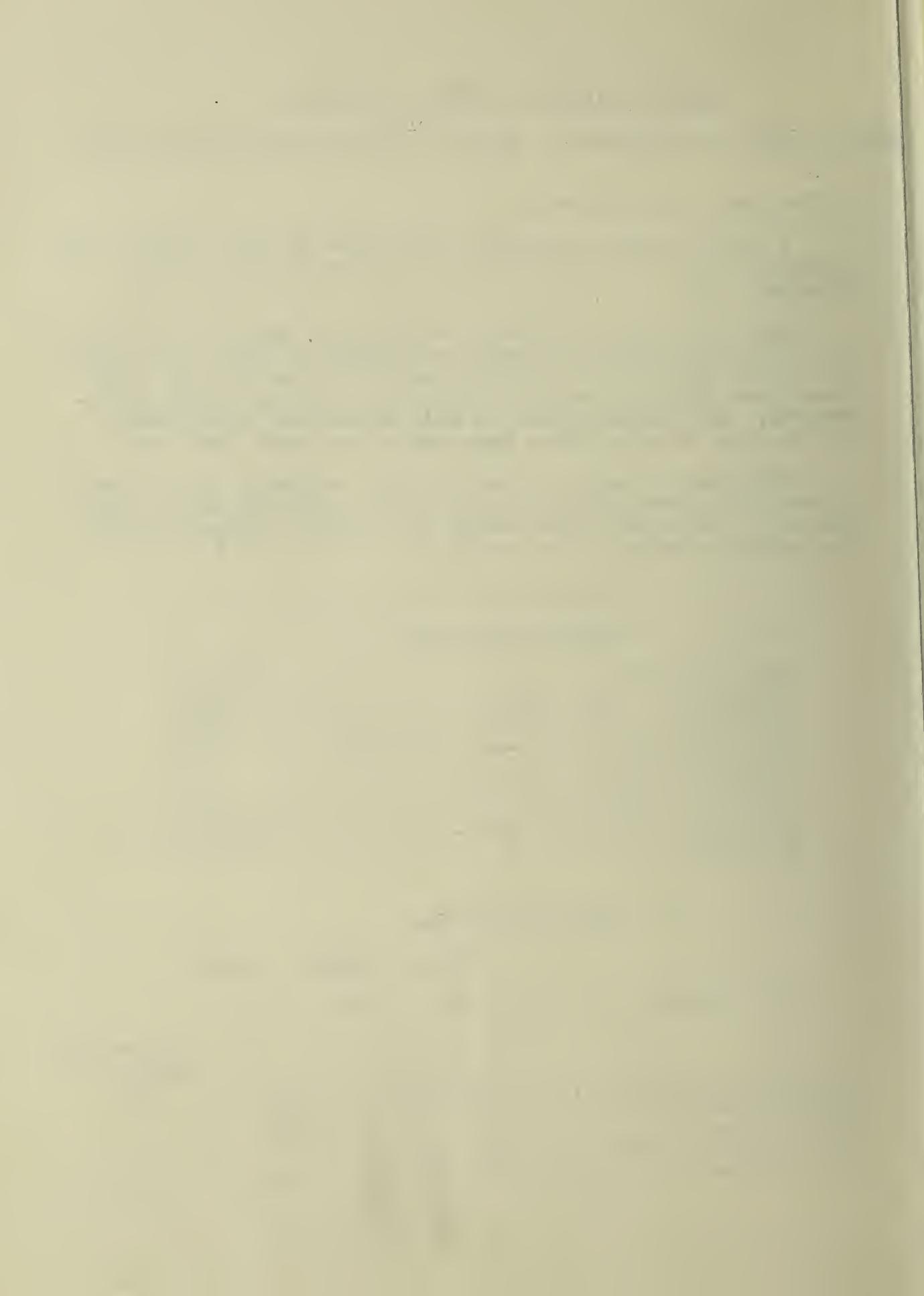
The general health of the district was good and was only marred by an outbreak of Measles at the beginning of the year and one of Whooping cough during the summer, fortunately all the sufferers made good recoveries.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	29,294.
Population - 1931 Census.....	2,177.
Population - 1951 Census.....	2,028.
Estimated home Population - mid 1956.....	2,040.
Parishes.....	6.
Number of inhabited houses.....	573.
Rateable value.....	£ 7,878.
Product of the Penny Rate.....	£31.15s. Od.
Loan Debt.....	£50,579.

Vital Statistics.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Live Births.....	15	18	33	
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population.....	16.2			England and Wales
Corrected Birth rate.....	17.1			15.7
Still births.....		nil		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births.....		nil		23.0.



	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>Deaths</u>	4	11	15.

England and
Wales.

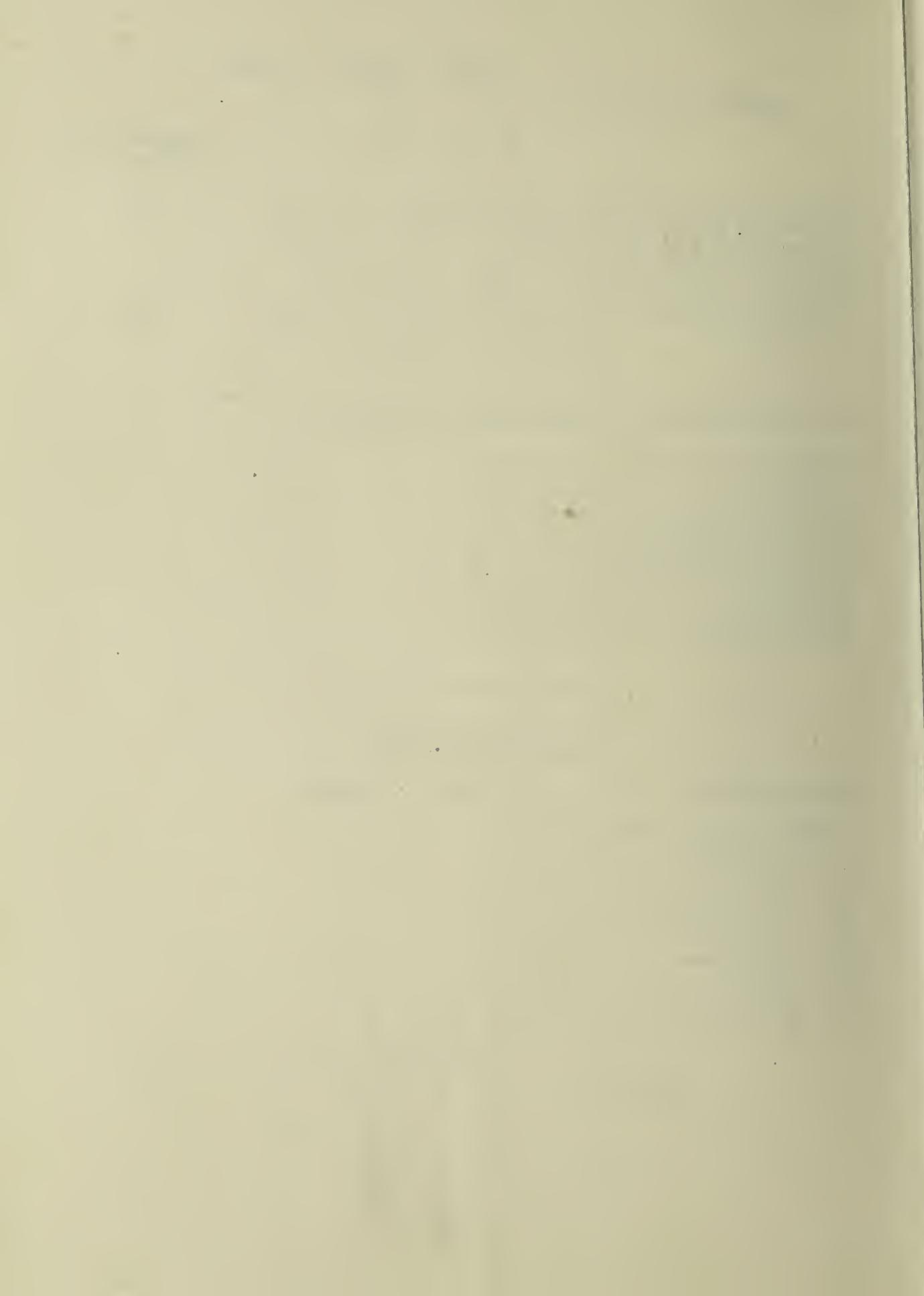
Crude death rate per 1,000 population....	7.3	11.7
Corrected Death Rate.....	8.6	
Deaths from Maternal Causes.....	nil	
Maternal mortality.....	-	
Deaths of infants under 1 year.....	1	
Infant mortality.....	66.6	23.8.

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

Syphilitic disease.....	1
Cancer.....	3
Diabetes.....	1
Vascular disease.....	2
Coronary disease.....	1
Other heart diseases.....	3
Pneumonia.....	2
Bronchitis.....	1
Other causes.....	1

Age of Death Table

<u>Age at death</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Infants under 1 year.....	-	1
1 - 5 years.....	-	-
5 - 15 years.....	-	-
15 - 25 years.....	-	-
25 - 35 years.....	-	-
35 - 45 years.....	-	-
45 - 55 years.....	-	-
55 - 65 years.....	1	-
65 - 75 years.....	3	4
75 and over.....	-	6
 Total:	4	11.



General Provision of Health Services.

These remained as in previous years and as no complaints were received one can assume that the service satisfied the public and adequately caters for their needs.

A total of nine children received vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

Infectious Diseases.

During the early months of the year twenty two cases of Measles were notified by the Doctors, followed during the summer months by an outbreak of Whooping Cough, during which forty three cases were notified.

The following table shows the cases of Infectious Disease which were notified by the school authorities.

	German Measles	Chicken Pox	Whooping Cough.
North Petherwin.	-	-	17
St.Giles in the Heath.	10	-	7
Broadwood	15	-	15
Werrington.	-	2	2

One new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year. At the end of the year ten cases remained on the Register, eight Pulmonary and two non-Pulmonary.

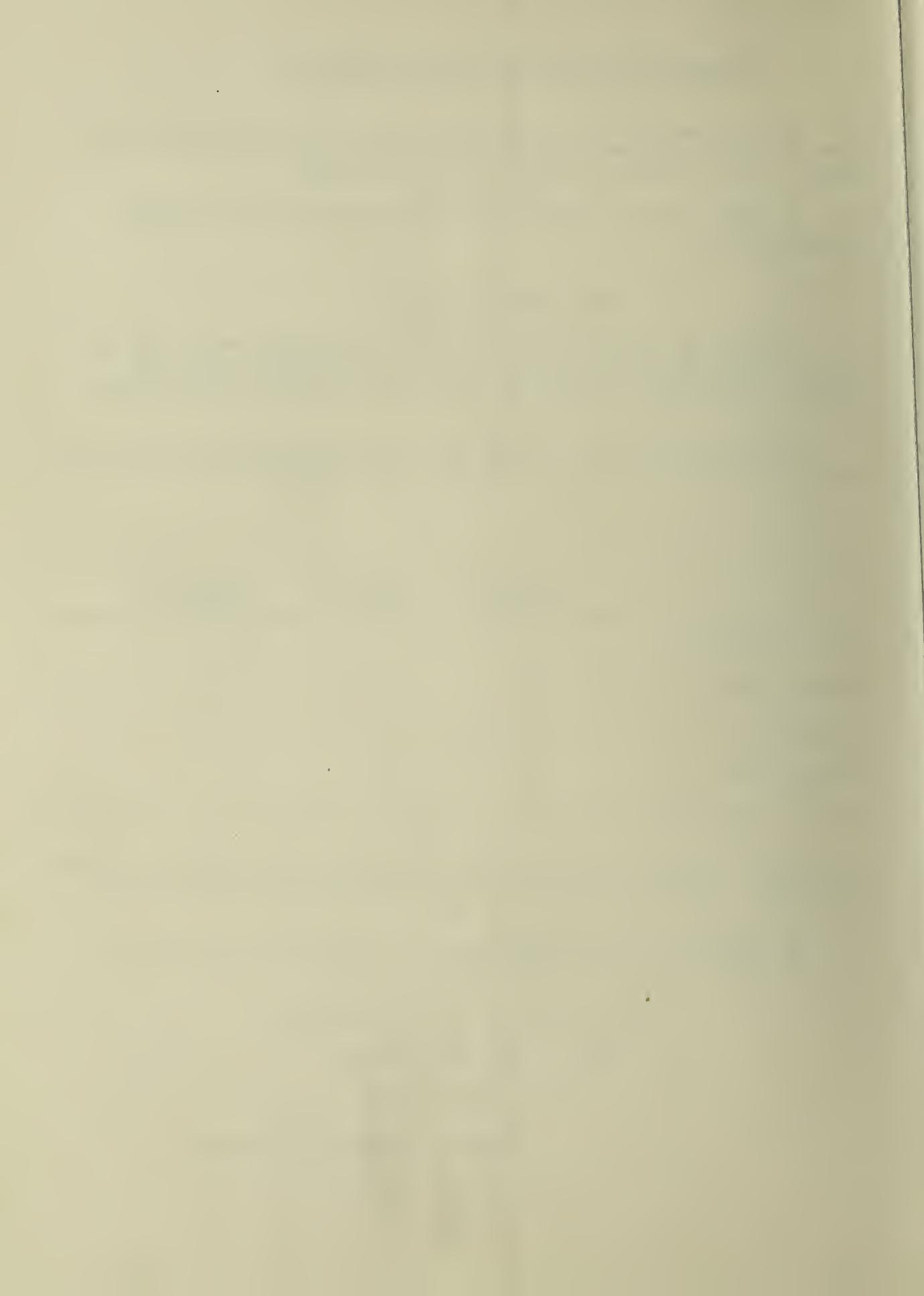
My thanks are due to Mr.Judd for preparing the Section of the report which he actually administers.

I am, Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.D. ALLEN-PRICE.

Medical Officer of Health.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

COUNCIL HOUSES

Tredown Gate

A pair of traditional Council houses was completed on this site during the year.

The following is the list of Council houses in the various Parishes:-

Broadwoodwidger.....	10
North Petherwin.....	6
Northcott Hamlet.....	-
St.Giles in the Heath...	6
Virginstowe.....	2
Werrington.....	8

Private Enterprise Houses completed during the year..2

Housing Act 1949. Improvement Grants.

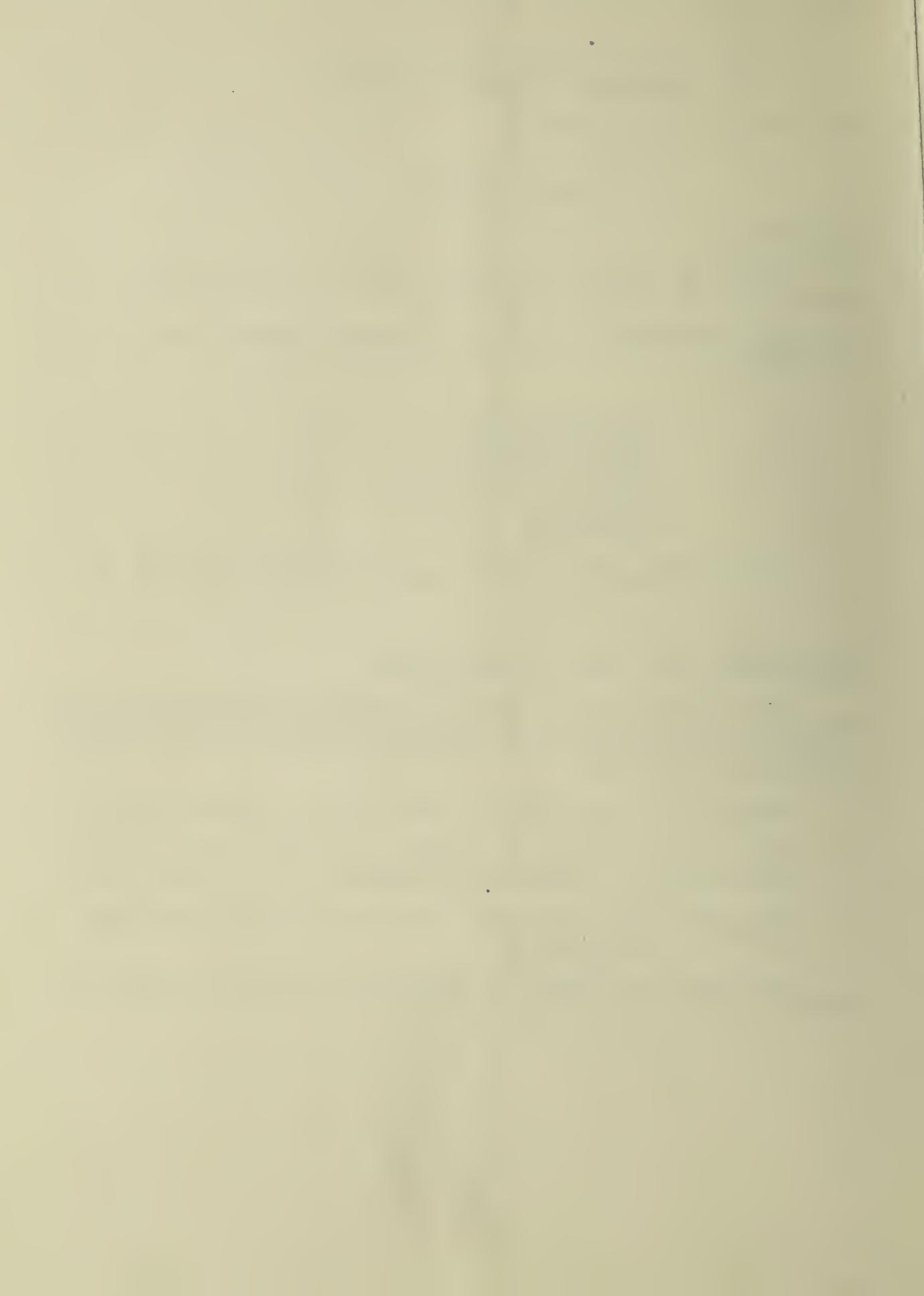
The Council's policy has been to make an Improvement Grant whenever conditions have been satisfactory and a suitable scheme prepared but property owners generally have been slow to take advantage of the Act.

To-date the total schemes submitted and approved are:

Additional dwellings by dividing existing house.....	1
Improvements to existing dwellings.....	7

The total value of grants paid for the eight completed schemes is £1452. 0. Od.

Latterly the Council has adopted the policy of paying the maximum grant possible in each case.



HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:
 - (a) No. of dwelling houses inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts..... 24
 - (b) Inspections made for the purpose..... 57.
2. No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 1.
3. Dwelling houses (exclusive of those under preceding sub-heading) not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 17.
4. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices..... 21.

No. of houses rendered fit in consequence of action by Local Authority or Office:

Housing Act.....	nil
Public Health Act.....	3.

5. Notices under Section 11, Housing Act 1936
Property since demolished..... nil
6. Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force..... 1.

FOOD SUPPLIES

Bakeries.

There are none in the district.

Slaughter Houses

There is only a licenced slaughter house used by one butcher for the family business. The premises are satisfactory and it was not found necessary to condemn any meat during the year.

Grocers

There are seven general stores from which groceries are sold. One is reasonably large shop, the remainder being small and consisting of one room being divided off from the remainder

of the dwelling house. Conditions are as satisfactory as may be expected.

Ice Cream

There are two retailers of pre-packed ice cream. Conditions are satisfactory.

Milk

There is only one milk producer as defined under the Milk and Dairies Regulations and she holds a supplementary licence for the retail of Pasteurised Milk. With this exception all the milk production is carried on by producers and producer-retailers and the supervision of these premises is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

It does seem ironical that in an agricultural district such as this where the number of cows probably exceeds the human population that at Ivy House School there has been no milk supply for the children for the last three months.

Food Poisoning

There have been no cases of food poisoning reported during the past year.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938 Section 3.

The following samples were taken under the above Act during the year by the County Inspector:-

Granulated Sugar)	
Malt Vinegar)	All genuine.
Milk (42 samples))	

WATER SUPPLIES

The North Devon Water Board schemes for Petherwin Gate and Ivy House to Broadwoodwidge Village were not started during the year but should be completed during 1957. When these two schemes are completed there will be about 10 miles of water main laid in the district. The extension of the main to Ladycross and Brassacott is urgently needed.

The number of properties connected to the North Devon Water Board supply are:

Private dwellings.....	43	
Metered supplies (Farms)...	35	<u>Total</u> 78

Mr. Young, District Engineer to the North Devon Water Board, has submitted the following report on progress in your district during the year:

Broadwoodwidger - Mainlaying is, at present, in progress for a supply to the village of Broadwoodwidger and consideration has also been given for an extension from this main to supply properties at Kellacott.

North Petherwin - A scheme for the supply at North Petherwin has been approved by the Ministry and it is anticipated that a start will be made very shortly on the provision of a piped supply to North Petherwin and Petherwin Gate.

Ivyhouse Cross Reservoir - A new reservoir has been completed at Ivyhouse Cross with a storage capacity of 250,000 gallons. The construction of this reservoir means that main extensions can be made in this area and will ensure an ample supply.

Refuse Collection

Refuse is collected bi-monthly from all the hamlets and houses bordering the principal roads of the district. About 75% of the houses in the district are served.

Factories

There are only two factories registered under the Factories Act 1937 and in neither case was it found necessary to serve any notice.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council for the support and ready hearing which they always give me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

T.A. JUDD.

Public Health Inspector

